



2007 Small Business and Entrepreneurship Resource Guide





Mark Sanford
Governor

SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Joe E. Taylor, Jr.
Secretary

Dear South Carolina Small Business:

South Carolina offers small businesses many benefits, including its business-friendly climate, access to utilities and infrastructure, and an ideal location on the East Coast. All of these attributes are important for keeping our state competitive. Small businesses are a vital element to the state being successful in the global economy of today. We are fortunate to have a number of excellent resources in our state that can help small business owners succeed and prosper.

This *Resource Guide* is a reference tool which provides the business community easy-to-use and concise information on statewide services. It includes assistance providers to new business owners, expanding companies, education opportunities and general information about small business development in our state.

I hope this guide will be a useful tool and encourage you to take full advantage of the quality resources our state has to offer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles A. Bundy, Jr.".

Charles A. Bundy, Jr.
Senior Manager, Business Solutions

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Business Consulting and Counseling Resources



Benedict College Business Development Center

The Benedict College Business Development Center serves clients from throughout the state with innovative education programs, technical assistance, and advisory and research services. Additionally, the center provides a below-market-cost incubation environment for innovative startup firms interested in providing services or business delivery strategies. The center program also includes plans for a revolving loan fund that will provide greater access to other traditional and nontraditional financing for its constituents.

Among the basic business services provided are: business plan development; secretarial support; training and education; sales and marketing assistance; and accounting and bookkeeping services. The facility has training session space and multi-purpose meeting rooms. The site is equipped with high-capacity bandwidth videoconferencing capabilities to facilitate intercommunity relations.

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Carolinas Minority Supplier Development Councils, Inc. (CMSDC)

CMSDC provides a variety of programs and services for corporate representatives and minority business enterprises. These programs are designed with several purposes in mind:

- To foster the development of long-term, mutually beneficial business relationships;
- To assist corporations in developing or enhancing their supplier development programs;
- To assist minority business enterprises with education, information and valuable contacts to help grow their business.

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Web: www.carolinasmsdc.org

FastTracSC

***See page 59 for local listings and map.**

FastTracSC includes practical, hands-on business development programs and workshops for existing business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs. The program provides entrepreneurs with business insights, leadership

skills and professional networking opportunities.

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Frank L. Roddey Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

***See page 72 for local listings and map.**

The Frank L. Roddey SBDC of S.C. is a resource consortium of four universities in S.C. with the mission of providing management assistance to small businesses in all areas of the state. The four consortium members are Clemson University, South Carolina State University, University of South Carolina and Winthrop University. Staffed offices are located in Aiken, Beaufort, Charleston, Clemson, Columbia, Conway, Florence, Greenville, Greenwood, Hilton Head, Orangeburg, Rock Hill, Spartanburg and Sumter (see pages 73 and 74 for contact information).

SBDC is a member of the S.C. Coalition for Small Business and Entrepreneurship, comprised of the S.C. Department of Commerce, Small Business Administration, Small Business Development Center, S.C. Export Consortium, S.C. Women's Business Center, and S.C. Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

SBDC provides technology and export assistance in collaboration with the S.C. consortium and offers programs to assist businesses interested in access to federal procurement opportunities. SBDC also provides assistance for those firms interested in and capable of participating in the SBIR/STTR program.

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S.C. Business One Stop (SCBOS)

Within one electronic location, SCBOS guides potential new business owners through the process of starting a business in S.C., while making it easier for existing business owners when filing and paying for business licenses.

SCBOS is the free online resource for new businesses and existing businesses to register with the state of S.C., obtain licenses, permits and registrations, as well as file and pay taxes and fees. With a few clicks, users can register or reserve a business from the Secretary of State, receive their sales tax license and obtain other state registrations, such as:

- Register for Withholding for Unemployment Tax;
- Register with Department of Consumer Affairs for Consumer Credit Sales — Maximum Rate;
- Certain permits for Department of Health and Environmental Control.

SCBOS Helpline: (803) 898-5690

Web: www.scbos.com

S.C. Department of Commerce

The S.C. Department of Commerce has established a central location for all of your small business questions. Commerce is eager to help with your small business needs. Commerce is allied with resources throughout the state that will be able to assist you with most of your business needs.

Brad Neese

Manager, Small Business

SC Department of Commerce

1201 Main St Ste 1600

Columbia SC 29201

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Fax: (803) 806-3426

E-mail: bneese@sccommerce.com

Web: www.sccommerce.com/smallbusiness.html

S.C. Department of Commerce, Recycling Market Development Advisory Council (RMDAC)

RMDAC was established within the S.C. Department of Commerce to develop markets for recovered materials and products with recycled content.

The RMDAC staff provides business development, marketing and technical assistance to S.C. recycling businesses involved in processing or making products with recyclable materials. As a partner in the Business Recycling Assistance Program (BRAP), staff helps industries seeking recycling options for their waste byproducts.

Chantal Fryer

Senior Manager

Recycling Market Development Advisory Council

SC Department of Commerce

1201 Main St Ste 1600

Columbia SC 29201

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Fax: (803) 806-3427

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Web: www.sccommerce.com

S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC), Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP)

The Small Business Assistance Program is a free, nonregulatory service that helps small businesses find out what regulations apply to them and helps them to comply with state and federal laws. Phyllis T. Copeland is the state's Small Business Ombudsman. She serves as an advocate for small businesses, providing referrals to appropriate technical staff, outreach on regulations and resolution of small business problems.

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Web: www.scdhec.gov/eqc/admin/html/sbap.asp

S.C. Family Business Forum

The purpose of this forum is to provide opportunities for family-owned businesses to gain knowledge and perspective concerning the challenges confronting them. Shared expertise comes from USC resources, invited experts, forum sponsors (Carolina First; Grant Thornton, LLP; Landmark Business Solutions; USC Moore School of Business; Mass Mutual Life Insurance Co.; and the McNair Law Firm) and the members themselves.

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S.C. Forestry Commission, Economic Development Program, Forest/Wood Products Assistance

The Forestry Commission's Economic Development Program is designed to maximize the contributions that forest resources make to the state. Assistance is provided to facilitate development of value-added forest products manufacturing, expansion of existing industry and creation of viable new forest-related business. Another goal is to improve the economic impact of forest resources through promotion of efficient harvesting, processing and recycling.

Technical and financial assistance is available to rural communities to help them expand their capacity for improvement and use the forest resource base to their best advantage. Technical assistance is available to economic development professionals, rural community leaders, and primary and secondary forest products manufacturers.

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S.C. Governor's Office of Small and Minority Business Assistance (OSMBA) *Directory*

The *South Carolina Minority Business Directory* is a reference of certified minority firms as listed by the OSMBA. This listing includes pertinent business information such as company name, address, telephone, management contact, type of business, a certificate number, and a federal IS/SSN number. The companies are arranged in product and service categories. The directory also explains how to begin the certification process and includes other small/minority business assistance information.

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S.C. Manufacturing Extension Partnership (SCMEP)

SCMEP is one of a network of more than 70 centers established by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to assist small- and mid-sized manufacturers. SCMEP provides smaller manufacturers, who are key to S.C.'s economic stability, access to the types of assistance that will keep them competitive in the growing worldwide marketplace.

SCMEP's comprehensive assistance includes business management and financial solutions, workforce development and training assistance, plant layout and process improvements, innovative technology evaluations, environmental management systems, and ISO implementation.

SCMEP's employees have extensive manufacturing experience in a wide variety of manufacturing industries, providing them the skills to analyze, recommend and implement improvements that strengthen the competitiveness of state manufacturers.

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Andy Carr
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Fax: (864) 288-8957
E-mail: ACarr@scmep.org
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Coverage Areas: *Abbeville, Anderson, Edgefield,
Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry,
Oconee, Pickens, and Saluda*

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Web: www.scmep.org
Coverage Areas: *Aiken, Fairfield, Lexington and
Richland*

Joe Jacobs
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Web: www.scmep.org
Coverage Areas: *Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell,
Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Clarendon,
Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence,
Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Kershaw, Lee,
Marion, Orangeburg, Sumter, and Williamsburg*

S.C. Statewide Minority Business Enterprise Center (MBEC)

MBEC is part of a national network that was established to increase the growth of new minority-owned business and strengthen existing ones, therefore making them more profitable and creating new jobs for S.C. MBEC professional consultants offer a wide range of services that include initial counseling, government/private sector contracting assistance, financial management, and more complex issues such as international trade franchising. The Minority Business Enterprise Agency (MBEA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce funds MBEC. DESA Inc., a South Carolina-based management firm, manages the center.

Greg Davis
Business Services Coordinator/Project Director
SC Statewide Minority Business Enterprise Center

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Web: www.scmbdc.com

S.C. Technology Alliance

The S.C. Technology Alliance's purpose is to pursue success toward the following four technology-related goals in order to enhance economic development in S.C.:

- 1) prepare a technology-capable workforce;
- 2) create a business environment that is friendly to technology-intensive companies;
- 3) invest to expand the base of rapidly growing companies and startup businesses; and
- 4) invest in world-class university research programs that are directly linked to S.C. industry.

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S.C. Women's Business Center (SCWBC)

SCWBC offers women entrepreneurs new opportunities to take their business ideas from their imaginations to successful endeavors. This center is part of the S.C. Manufacturing Extension Partnership (SCMEP) and is funded by a Cooperative Agreement from the Small Business Administration (SBA). The SCWBC program provides business and technical assistance to prospective and existing women-owned businesses throughout the state of S.C.

SCWBC offers free counseling and information about business resources that can help you in business startup, operations and management. It also provides workshops and training opportunities throughout the state.

Web: www.scwbc.org

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SCLaunch!

SCLaunch! is a collaboration between SCRA — a technology R&D program management company — and S.C.'s research universities — Clemson University, University of South Carolina and Medical University of South Carolina. Through the Resource Network, SCLaunch! teams with seasoned business professionals and organizations that are willing to provide advice, mentoring and services to SCLaunch! clients.

SCLaunch! accelerates entrepreneurial growth for advanced technology startups by delivering key tools for success: seed-funding up to \$200,000 in loans or investments; ongoing mentoring and business counseling; and access to Resource Network Services. Our mission is to help generate knowledge-based jobs, enhance the state's quality of life and provide opportunity for all South Carolinians in the new economy.

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Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)

***See page 69 for local listings and map.**

SCORE, a resource partner of the U.S. Small Business Administration, provides business assistance with free indepth private counseling and low-cost group workshops.

SCORE volunteers are mainly retired business executives and owners who have spent their professional careers in the business world. With their considerable experience-based knowledge of "what works and what doesn't," they help prospective and established business owners identify problems, determine causes and find solutions.

Counseling is provided in a variety of ways, including face-to-face at SCORE offices or at the client's place of business, by e-mail or at periodic workshops held throughout S.C. on a variety of small business topics.

In S.C., SCORE has staffed offices in 15 communities (see pages 70 and 71 for SCORE locations). SCORE is a member of the S.C. Coalition for Small Business and Entrepreneurship, comprised of the S.C. Department of Commerce, Small Business Administration, Small Business Development Center, S.C. Export Consortium, S.C. Women's Business Center and S.C. Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

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State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, Buy South Carolina Supplier Locator Service

The Buy South Carolina Supplier Locator Service assists new or expanding companies using the Center for Accelerated Technology Training (CATT) in locating suppliers in S.C. The service locates S.C.-based companies that have the capability of meeting the company's needs, and contact information is given to the new or expanding company. The goal of this service is to keep dollars and jobs remaining in S.C.

Tommy B. Fulmer
Buy South Carolina Project Administrator
State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education
Economic Development Division
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E-mail: fulmer@sctechsystem.com

University of South Carolina (USC) businessLink

USC businessLink brings together five USC economic development and research resources to provide access to the services these USC business and economic development resources can provide. No delays, no hassles, no red tape.

The resources offered by USC businessLink are the USC Small Business Development Center, USC Center for Manufacturing and Technology, USC Columbia Technology Incubator, USC Industrial Agreements Unit, and USC Intellectual Property Office.

USC businessLINK provides fast and easy access to exceptional consulting, world-class research capabilities and turnkey licensing, producing cost efficiencies that increase speed to market and return on investment.

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Web: www.uscbusinesslink.com

Education and Training Resources



Clemson Institute for Economic and Community Development

With its extensive network, the institute works to help communities utilize their resources more efficiently. Sandhill REC is also committed to natural resources and environmental stewardship. The S.C. Department of Natural Resources, USDA-NRCS, University of South Carolina and the faculty of Sandhill partner to conduct research and education programs that reach thousands each year. While the services of Sandhill have metamorphosed over the years, it still fulfills its original purpose of meeting the needs and serving the people of the surrounding communities, S.C. and beyond.

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Clemson University College of Business and Behavioral Science, Arthur M. Spiro Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership

The mission of the Spiro Center is to support educational, research and outreach programs that promote entrepreneurial activity and economic development within the region, state and nation. The center coordinates educational offerings in entrepreneurship, supports faculty research into entrepreneurship topics and provides various forms of assistance to entrepreneurial ventures.

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Arthur M. Spiro Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership
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Web: www.business.clemson.edu/Spiro/home/bodde.shtml

One-Stop Workforce Centers, WIA

S.C.'s One-Stop Workforce System is a direct result of federal legislation known as the Workforce Investment Act passed in August 1998. The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) provides employment and job training programs, and uses One-Stop Workforce Centers throughout the state. The state is divided into 12 Workforce Investment Areas, each of which is managed by boards that include a mix of people from business and the public sector.

The One-Stops, the majority of which are located in S.C. Employment Security Commission offices, pull together a variety of agencies and programs under one roof for the convenience of employers and job seekers.

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Fax: (864) 232-0151

Aiken

Tina Barfield
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Aiken SC 29802
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Fax: (803) 641-7644

Chester

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Greenwood

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Anderson

Teri Gilstrap
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Anderson SC 29622
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Fax: (864) 261-0489

Clinton

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Fax: (864) 833-4097

Hampton

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Barnwell

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Columbia

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Hartsville

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Beaufort

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Fax: (843) 524-0904

Florence

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Florence SC 29501
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Kingstree

Leroy Thompson
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Kingstree SC 29556
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Bennettsville

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Union

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Moncks Corner

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Winnsboro

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Orangeburg

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S.C. Technology Alliance

The S.C. Technology Alliance's purpose is to pursue success toward the following four technology-related goals in order to enhance economic development in S.C.:

- 1) prepare a technology-capable workforce;
- 2) create a business environment that is friendly to technology-intensive companies;
- 3) invest to expand the base of rapidly growing companies and startup businesses; and
- 4) invest in world-class university research programs that are directly linked to S.C. industry.

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SC Technology Alliance
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State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, Continuing Education Programs

Continuing Education Programs are conducted by the 16 colleges in the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education system. This post-employment training is occupational by design and may be general or customized. The programs provide training for low- to high-skill occupations.

The types of training programs include seminars, workshops, short courses and long-term apprenticeships. The programs may be conducted on a technical college campus or in a plant. The purpose of this program is to deliver to local businesses and industries the type of training needed to keep them competitive and growing. Continuing Education Programs carry a minimal cost.

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Occupational Advancement Training
SC Technical College System
111 Executive Center D
Columbia SC 29210-8424
Phone: (803) 463-5881
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E-mail: Shultz@tec.sc.us

State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, readySC

The readySC program is recognized as one of the premier industry training programs in the U.S. readySC provides customized training programs for new and expanding industry at little or no cost to these companies. Services include curriculum development, providing and training instructors, training site preparation and applicant recruitment for the training program. Pre-employment training, structured post-employment training or a combination of the two may be provided to the company.

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State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, S.C. Technical College System

The S.C. Technical College System is a network of 16 technical colleges that offer associate degree and diploma programs in several cluster areas: agricultural technology, arts and science, business technology, engineering technology, allied health, and industrial technology. The technical colleges also provide a variety of additional services that can assist manufacturing companies in S.C., e.g., Continuing Education Programs and state Resource Centers.

Aiken Technical College
Dr. Susan A. Winsor, President
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Aiken SC 29802-0696
Phone: (803) 593-9231
E-mail: winsors@atc.edu
Web: www.atc.edu

Horry-Georgetown Technical College
Dr. Henry N. Wilson, President
2050 Hwy 501 E
Conway SC 29526
Phone: (843) 347-3186
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Central Carolina Technical College
Dr. Kay Raffield, President
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Midlands Technical College
Dr. Sonny White, President
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Columbia SC 29202-2408
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Web: www.midlandstech.com

Denmark Technical College
Dr. John K. Waddell, President
500 Soloman Blatt Ave
Denmark SC 29042
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Web: www.denmarktech.edu

Northeastern Technical College
Dr. James C. Williamson, President
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Cheraw SC 29520-1007
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Web: www.netc.edu

Florence Darlington Technical College
Dr. Charles W. Gould, President
PO Box 100548
Florence SC 29501-0548
Phone: (843) 661-8324
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Web: www.fdtc.edu

Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College
Dr. Ann S. Crook, President
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Greenville Technical College
Dr. Thomas E. Barton Jr., President
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Piedmont Technical College
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Spartanburg Community College
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Technical College of the Lowcountry
Dr. Anne S. McNutt, President
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Tri-County Technical College
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Trident Technical College
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York Technical College
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University of South Carolina (USC)

USC is a comprehensive, research-intensive university, ranked in the top 100 research universities in the U.S. The university comprises eight campuses, with the flagship research campus in Columbia, four-year campuses in Aiken and Spartanburg, and two-year campuses in Beaufort, Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter and Union.

USC is home to more than 60 research centers and institutes that address issues related to biotechnology, coastal issues, international business, small business development, manufacturing, fracture mechanics, energy, disease prevention, etc., and has a spectrum of partners including the federal, state and private sectors.

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University of South Carolina (USC), Daniel Management Center

The Daniel Management Center provides continuing management and professional development programs. Since its founding in 1973, the center has served some 150,000 people from business, industry and government through its high-quality seminars, workshops, conferences and courses. In order to help people and their organizations meet new challenges in the constantly changing organizational world, the center presents programs relating not only to the newest technologies, but also to the most pressing issues confronting business, government and the economy.

The center specializes in customizing management development programs for companies. It has special expertise in developing international and global programs for companies with business interests in S.C. and around the globe.

Dr. Charlie Farrell
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Web: www.mooreschool.sc.edu/moore/dmc

Financial Resources



Appalachian Development Corporation

Serving Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, and Spartanburg Counties

The Appalachian Development Corporation is an economic development corporation founded by the members of the Appalachian Council of Governments. The corporation is organized for the purpose of furthering economic development and social welfare in the counties of Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, and Spartanburg, promoting and assisting with growth and development of business concerns, particularly small concerns, and to benefit the area as measured by increased employment and payroll, business volume, increased tax base, and similar factors. To achieve these goals, the corporation provides a variety of services that include business lending programs.

David Mueller
Special Projects and Loan Fund Director
Appalachian Development Corporation
30 Century Cir
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Web: www.scacog.org/finance/adc.htm

Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester (BCD) Council of Governments (COG), Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

Serving Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties

The BCD COG RLF is a locally controlled source of capital that assists startup and growing businesses whose projects help improve the tri-county economy. The primary purpose of the RLF program is to aid in the creation and retention of permanent full-time jobs in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties.

The RLF program is used as gap financing, meaning that RLF loans are used to leverage private-sector loans and investments to help fulfill an applicant's capital needs.

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Business Carolina Inc. (BCI)

BCI is a not-for-profit, statewide development finance institution that provides innovative financial products and capacity-building services to promote growth and competitiveness of new and existing small- and medium-sized businesses in S.C. BCI complements private-sector activities through a variety of lending

programs to fill gaps in funding often faced by these businesses, especially in rural and distressed areas of S.C.

Edward C. Kesser
Senior Vice President – Lending
Business Carolina Inc.
PO Box 8327
Columbia SC 29202
Phone: (803) 461-3801
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Business Development Corporation (BDC) of S.C.

BDC is a privately owned, non-bank financial institution organized for the purpose of promoting economic development in S.C. It provides term loans to both new and expanding businesses that are unable to obtain financing through normal banking sources. Loans can be obtained for most business purposes and by various types of businesses except for investment, speculative and eleemosynary ventures.

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Business Development Corp.
PO Box 21823
Columbia SC 29221
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Web: www.businessdevelopment.org/index.php

Catawba Regional Development Corporation (CRDC) **Serving Chester, Lancaster, Union and York Counties**

CRDC is a nonprofit corporation established to provide supplemental government financing for new or expanding businesses in Chester, Lancaster, Union and York counties.

Its mission is to facilitate growth, expansion and diversification of the local economy by providing financial assistance to startup and expanding businesses by offering a variety of loan programs including the SBA 504 program, the Revolving Loan Fund Program and the Intermediary Relending Program. With these programs, CRDC can provide loans ranging from \$30,000 to \$4 million.

Randy Imler or Elaine Fairman
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Web: www.catawbacog.org/businessloans.asp

Charleston Angel Partners (CHAP)

CHAP is a member-driven organization composed of a group of Charleston-area business professionals who work together to help support high-growth economic development in the region.

CHAP screens and evaluates qualified startups looking for seed capital. Membership is open to area men and women who are qualified individual investors, and have business or professional experience which can be employed in the group's research. CHAP is looking for early-stage companies that have the potential to become \$50 million companies in five years, with a plan to get there.

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Jobs-Economic Development Authority (JEDA)

JEDA was established by an Act of the General Assembly (ACT 145 of 1983) and is an agency of the State of South Carolina. JEDA was created to retain and expand job opportunities and enlarge the tax base of the state and its local governments through meeting the financial and capital needs of the small- and middle-market business community. To carry out its mandate, the Authority issues tax-exempt and taxable Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRBs) to enable South Carolina businesses to secure low-cost financing for capital expenditures. In all cases, JEDA works with the private sector in a public-private partnership. The Authority's programs target areas of the state that have the greatest need for private and public investment. Focus is placed on projects which offer the most economic growth and diversity for the State of South Carolina and its citizens.

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Web: www.scjeda.net

Lower Savannah Council of Governments (COG), Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund

Through its Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund program, Lower Savannah Council of Governments offers attractive reduced-rate financing to help your business grow and expand. Loans are

available for amounts of \$10,000 to \$150,000. The funds can be used for industrial and commercial businesses, including retail and service sectors. All loans must be adequately collateralized and will require personal guarantees of the principals. An application fee of \$500 is payable at the time of application, and a 1.5% loan origination fee will be collected at closing.

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Lower Savannah Council of Governments
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Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments (COG), Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

The Pee Dee Regional COG operates a \$1 million RLF for small businesses, using state and federal funding. Loans of up to \$175,000 are made to small businesses that create jobs. Loans are below market rate and are intended to supplement what private lenders can contribute to a project.

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Provident Business Financial Services

Provident Business Financial Services provides economic development financing to small businesses by participating in the SBA 504 debenture program. The essence of this program is to make long-term, low-down-payment, reasonably priced, fixed-rate financing available by providing second mortgage loans. These second mortgage loans are subordinated to conventional first mortgage loans from traditional lenders, stimulating the private sector investment in long-term fixed assets which, in turn, will increase productivity, create new jobs and increase the local tax base.

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Santee-Lynches Regional Development Corporation, Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

The Santee-Lynches Regional Development Corporation administers an RLF, a locally controlled source of capital intended to assist startup and growing businesses. It is used primarily as gap financing to help leverage private sector loans and investments to fulfill an applicant's total capital needs. All loan principal and a majority of interest payments are returned to the fund for re-use.

Loan proceeds can be used for a variety of purposes, including acquisition and improvement of real estate, purchase of machinery, inventory and equipment, and permanent working capital. The fund is designed to fill the gap between what a bank can reasonably lend on a project and what the business can provide in equity.

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S.C. Capital Access Program (SC CAP)

The purpose of SC CAP, a newly enacted lending program, is to promote economic development and job creation through small businesses in the state of S.C. by providing financial institutions with a flexible and nonbureaucratic resource.

SC CAP is based on a reserve fund concept and is fundamentally different from traditional insurance or guarantee programs, which guarantee individual loans. Rather, SC CAP works on a portfolio concept. In other words, if a financial institution participates in SC CAP, a special reserve fund, which is owned by the state but managed by Business Development Corporation (BDC) of S.C., is set up to cover future losses from a portfolio of loans that the institution makes under the program. The SC CAP reserve fund is not specific to individual loans, but is used to offset losses on any loan in the participating financial institution's SC CAP portfolio.

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S.C. Venture Capital Authority

Created by the passage of the Venture Capital Investment Act in 2005, the authority is a seven-member board that has access to \$50 million of S.C. tax credits, which serve as collateral for private institutional lenders. These lenders extend capital to designated investment professionals who, in turn, invest in S.C. companies. The returns from these in-state investments are used to pay back the private lenders before they utilize the state tax credits.

The authority's public policy goals are consistent with the economic development efforts of the state: to support homegrown S.C. companies and foster entrepreneurial growth.

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SCLaunch!

SCLaunch! accelerates entrepreneurial growth for advanced technology startups by delivering key tools for success: seed-funding up to \$200,000 in loans or investments; ongoing mentoring and business counseling; and access to Resource Network Services. Our mission is to help generate knowledge-based jobs, enhance the state's quality of life and provide opportunity for all South Carolinians in the new economy.

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Upper Savannah Council of Governments (COG), Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

The Upper Savannah COG RLF is a locally controlled source of capital used to assist in financing startup and expanding businesses. To be eligible, a potential borrower's project must result in the creation of permanent jobs and leverage private sector investment. The program is designed to fill the gap between the financing available from traditional private sector sources (i.e., bank loans and equity) and the total financing need. Although the program has an economic development purpose, loans are intended to be repaid. Therefore, potential borrowers must be creditworthy, submit financially sound proposals and provide adequate collateral to secure all lenders.

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U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program

The USDA B&I Guaranteed Loan Program helps create jobs and stimulates rural economies by providing financial backing for rural businesses. The program provides up to 80 percent of a loan made by a commercial lender. Loan proceeds may be used for working capital, machinery and equipment, buildings and real estate, and certain types of debt refinancing.

B&I loan guarantees can be extended to loans made by recognized commercial or other authorized lenders in rural areas (this includes all areas other than cities of more than 50,000 people and the contiguous and urbanized areas such as cities or towns).

Gregg White
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U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Loan Programs

SBA's loan programs enhance the ability of lenders to provide long- and short-term loans to small businesses that might not qualify through normal lending channels. To qualify for an SBA guaranty, the lender must certify that it cannot provide funding on reasonable terms through normal lending channels. There are three major SBA loan programs:

Basic 7(a) Loan Guaranty

Serves as the SBA's primary business loan program to help qualified small businesses obtain financing when they might not be eligible for business loans through normal lending channels. It is also the agency's most flexible business loan program, since financing under this program can be guaranteed for a variety of general business purposes.

Loan proceeds can be used for most sound business purposes including: working capital; machinery and equipment; furniture and fixtures; land and building (including purchase, renovation and new construction);

leasehold improvements; and debt refinancing (under special conditions). Loan maturity is up to 10 years for working capital and generally up to 25 years for fixed asset. (Please reference www.sba.gov/financing/sbaload/7a.htm for further information.)

Certified Development Company (CDC), a 504 Loan Program

Provides long-term, fixed-rate financing to small businesses to acquire real estate or machinery or equipment for expansion or modernization. A 504 project typically includes a loan secured from a private-sector lender with a senior lien, a loan secured from a CDC (funded by a 100 percent SBA-guaranteed debenture) with a junior lien covering up to 40 percent of the total cost, and a contribution of at least 10 percent equity from the borrower. The maximum SBA debenture generally is \$1 million (and up to \$1.3 million in some cases). (Please reference www.sba.gov/financing/sbaload/cdc504.htm for further information.)

Microloan, a 7(m) Loan Program

Provides short-term loans of up to \$35,000 to small businesses and not-for-profit childcare centers for working capital or the purchase of inventory, supplies, furniture, fixtures, machinery and/or equipment. Proceeds cannot be used to pay existing debts or to purchase real estate. The SBA makes or guarantees a loan to an intermediary who, in turn, makes the microloan to the applicant. These organizations also provide management and technical assistance. Loans are not guaranteed by the SBA. The microloan program is available in selected locations in most states. (Please refer to www.sba.gov/financing/sbaload/microloans.htm for further information.)

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Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments (COG), Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

Serving Georgetown, Horry and Williamsburg Counties

The Title IX RLF program is a low-interest loan program available to businesses and industries within the three-county area of the Waccamaw Region. Funds for this program have been provided by the Economic Development Administration for the purpose of creating jobs and improving the economy of the Waccamaw Region.

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Regulatory / Government Resources



Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

The IRS has many services and publications available to help small businesses. Most of these services and answers to many of your tax-related questions can be found at www.irs.gov/businesses/index.html.

Your local Stakeholder Liaison office establishes relationships with organizations representing small business and self-employed taxpayers. They provide information about the policies, practices and procedures the IRS uses to ensure compliance with the tax laws.

Tom Sheaffer
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SBSE Stakeholders Liaison
Internal Revenue Service
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Fax: (803) 765-5055
E-mail: Thomas.A.Shaeffer@irs.gov
Web: www.irs.gov/businesses/index.html

Other helpful IRS resources:

- Business and Specialty Helpline: 1-800-829-4933
- Electronic Federal Tax Payment System: www.eftps.gov or 1-800-555-4477
- Tax Forms and Publications: www.irs.gov/formspubs or 1-800-829-3676

S.C. Business One Stop (SCBOS)

Within one electronic location, SCBOS guides potential new business owners through the process of starting a business in S.C., while making it easier for existing business owners when filing and paying for business licenses.

SCBOS is the free online resource for new businesses and existing businesses to register with the state of S.C., obtain licenses, permits and registrations, as well as file and pay taxes and fees. With a few clicks, users can register or reserve a business from the Secretary of State, receive their sales tax license and obtain other state registrations, such as:

- Register for Withholding for Unemployment Tax;
- Register with Department of Consumer Affairs for Consumer Credit Sales — Maximum Rate;
- Certain permits for Department of Health and Environmental Control.

SCBOS Helpline: (803) 898-5690
Web: www.scbos.com

S.C. Commission for Minority Affairs

The S.C. Commission for Minority Affairs was created to provide the citizenry with a single point of contact for information regarding the state's minority population. With the help of grassroots volunteers from across the state, the Commission assesses the problems plaguing the minority population, recommends alternative solutions for resolving problems, and prepares for the distribution of factual information to be used in shaping new public policies and local initiatives.

Janie A. Davis
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SC Commission for Minority Affairs
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Web: www.state.sc.us/cma/

S.C. Department of Commerce

The S.C. Department of Commerce has established a central location for all of your small business questions. Commerce is eager to help with your small business needs. Commerce is allied with resources throughout the state that will be able to assist you with most of your business needs.

Brad Neese
Small Business Manager
SC Department of Commerce
1201 Main St Ste 1600
Columbia SC 29201
Phone: (803) 737-2329
Fax: (803) 806-3426
E-mail: bneese@sccommerce.com
Web: www.sccommerce.com/smallbusiness.html

S.C. Department of Commerce, Small Business Regulatory Review Committee (SBRRC)

SBRRC reviews new and existing state agency regulations that may adversely impact small businesses, and suggests the implementation of more flexible alternatives to ensure regulatory compliance.

SBRRC is creating a set of guidelines to be utilized in reviewing agency regulations and their potential for adversely impacting small businesses and is currently reviewing all promulgated agency regulations issued since January 2005.

Kara Corbett
SC Department of Commerce
1201 Main St Ste 1600
Columbia SC 29201
Phone: (803) 737-0239
Fax: (803) 806-3473
E-mail: kcorbett@sccommerce.com

S.C. Department of Consumer Affairs

The primary function of the S.C. Department of Consumer Affairs is to regulate the consumer credit marketplace, to attempt to resolve any complaint arising out of the production, promotion or sale of consumer goods or services in S.C., whether or not credit is involved, and to promote a healthy competitive business climate with mutual confidence between buyers and sellers.

The Division of Consumer Advocacy provides legal representation of consumer interests before state and federal regulatory agencies when these agencies undertake to fix rates or prices for consumer products or services or to enact regulations or establish policies. In addition, the Division of Consumer Advocacy monitors existing regulations, rate structures and policies of special consumer interest, and reports to the general public, through the media, the effect of proposed changes.

The Legal Division licenses, registers and regulates motor clubs, physical fitness service organizations, pawnbrokers, mortgage loan brokers, and staff leasing companies, and enforces the Private Personnel Placement Services Act and the Unsolicited Telephone Calls Act.

Brandolyn Thomas Pinkston
Administrator
SC Department of Consumer Affairs
3600 Forest Dr 3rd Fl
PO Box 5757
Columbia SC 29250
Phone: (803) 734-4200
(800) 922-1594 (toll free in SC)
Web: www.state.sc.us/consumer/

S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC), Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) Drug Testing

The SC DHEC BOL's Analytical Chemistry Division operates a drug abuse screening service at competitive prices using the latest in laboratory technologies. BOL provides rapid turnaround time on tests, freezer storage, on-site training in specimen collection, random testing lists free on a monthly basis, chain of custody procedure for legal defense, and drug identification.

The College of American Pathologists (CAP) certifies the laboratory. Any S.C. company is eligible to use the services.

Thomas M. Hickey, Ph.D., D.A.B.C.C.
Director, Chemistry Division
SC DHEC Bureau of Laboratories
8231 Parkland Rd
Columbia SC 29223
Phone: (803) 896-0963
Fax: (803) 896-0991
E-mail: hickeytm@dhec.sc.gov

S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC), Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP)

This free, nonregulatory service helps small businesses find out what regulations apply to them and helps them to comply with state and federal laws. Phyllis T. Copeland is the state's Small Business Ombudsman. She serves as an advocate for small businesses, providing referrals to appropriate technical staff, outreach on regulations and resolution of small business problems.

Phyllis T. Copeland
Small Business Ombudsman
DHEC-EQC Administration
2600 Bull St
Columbia SC 29201-1708
Phone: (803) 896-8982
(800) 819-9001
Fax: (803) 896-8999
E-mail: copelapt@dhec.sc.gov
Web: www.scdhec.gov/eqc/admin/html/sbap.asp

S.C. Department of Insurance

The mission of the S.C. Department of Insurance is to protect the insurance consumers, the public interest and the insurance marketplace by: ensuring the solvency of insurers; enforcing and implementing the insurance laws of this state; and regulating the insurance industry in an efficient, courteous, responsive, fair, and equitable manner. The Department of Insurance accomplishes this mission through professional services, which include, but are not limited to: examinations and audits of insurance underwriters; consumer education, outreach, and assistance; premium tax and fee collection on behalf of the state and its subdivisions; prior review of insurance premium rates and insurance policy forms; and licensure of insurers and insurance-related individuals and entities.

Scott H. Richardson, CPCU
Director
SC Department of Insurance
300 Arbor Lake Dr Ste 1200
Columbia SC 29223
Phone: (803) 737-6227
E-mail: info@doi.sc.gov
Web: www.doi.sc.gov

S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Office of Migrant Labor

The Office of Migrant Labor serves as a point of contact for growers, workers, agencies, organizations, and individuals who have questions or concerns about migrant issues. The office operates as a clearinghouse by assisting, coordinating and monitoring programs and services provided by public and private organizations. The office also serves as the administrative arm for the S.C. Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers Commission.

Joan Wilkie
Administrative Coordinator
Office of Migrant Labor
SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Dr
PO Box 11329
Columbia SC 29211-1329
Phone: (803) 896-4684
E-mail: wilkiej@mail.llr.state.sc.us
Web: www.llr.state.sc.us

S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Office of OSHA Voluntary Programs

The Office of OSHA Voluntary Programs is designed to help employers provide a safe and healthy workplace for employees. This is accomplished through the following free and confidential programs: Training and Education; Consultation; and Palmetto Star Voluntary Protection Program.

Training is available to employers and employees of both the public and private sector and can take place either on-site or in one of the Regional Training programs. In addition to helping employers identify and correct specific hazards, consulting services provide guidance in establishing or improving an effective safety and health program. The Palmetto Star Voluntary Protection Program provides recognition to qualified employers who exceed the requirements of the OSHA Act of 1970 in providing their workers with a safe and healthy worksite.

Robert A. Laney
Office of OSHA Voluntary Programs
SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
3600 Forest Dr
PO Box 11329
Columbia SC 29211
Phone: (803) 896-7788
E-mail: laneyr@llr.sc.gov
Web: www.llr.state.sc.us/labor/osha

S.C. Department of Revenue

The S.C. Department of Revenue is responsible for administering more than 35 different taxes and fees imposed by the state, collecting more than \$6 billion in state tax revenues each year. The department's revenue collections supplement more than 95 percent of the state's operating budget.

The Department of Revenue's Business Registration and Sales and Use Tax sections register and issue retail sales licenses to the state's 130,000 retail businesses and collects S.C.'s sales and use tax revenues. The Income Tax section administers the state's individual and corporate income tax collection programs.

The agency also licenses and regulates alcoholic beverages through its Alcohol Beverage Licensing section and has similar responsibilities for regulating and licensing state bingo operations. The Department of Revenue audits individual taxpayer and corporate concerns to ensure tax law compliance and its Criminal Investigative Division is responsible for imposing civil and criminal charges when violations warrant.

SC Department of Revenue

301 Gervais St

Columbia SC 29201

Phone: (803) 898-5000 (General Information)
(803) 898-5709 (Income Tax Helpline)
(803) 898-5788 (Sales Tax Helpline)

Web: www.sctax.org

S.C. Department of Transportation (SCDOT), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program

The purpose of SCDOT's DBE program is to assist potential contractors in their efforts to identify and use DBEs that are participating in this program. Certification is granted through SCDOT as verification that a business is bona fide in its claim to be a disadvantaged business enterprise. Certified firms are used to meet goals on federally assisted contracts. SCDOT is required to provide a list of certified contractors to firms bidding on prime contracts who, in turn, agree to use certified minority businesses on construction projects throughout the state.

Dr. Arlene Prince

Deputy Director

Office of DBE Program and Special Projects

SCDOT

955 Park St Rm 403

Columbia SC 29201

Phone: (803) 737-1372

Fax: (803) 737-2021

Web: www.dot.state.sc.us/doing/dbe.html

S.C. Employment Security Commission

The S.C. Employment Security Commission collaborates with other state and local workforce development organizations committed to the creation of a diverse and well-trained workforce in S.C. The Employment

Security Commission can assist businesses in solving employment- and training-related challenges, and help people with career transitions. Services are provided at no cost.

Roosevelt T. "Ted" Haley
Executive Director
SC Employment Security Commission
1550 Gadsden St
PO Box 995
Columbia SC 29202
Phone: (803) 737-2400
Web: www.sces.org

S.C. Film Commission, *Production Guide*

We are now seeing many more film projects than we have in the past. Each film has unique purchasing needs, often looking to small businesses to supply these services and products. We encourage S.C. companies to become listed suppliers with the S.C. Film Commission. This is a free service and is updated monthly on our Web site with hard copy guides being printed early each year. To become a registered supplier, please visit the S.C. Film Commission Web site.

Jeff Monks
Film Commissioner
SC Film Commission
1201 Main St Ste 1600
Columbia SC 29201
Phone: (803) 737-0495
E-mail: jmonks@commerce.state.sc.us
Web: www.filmsc.com (go to "Crew" and click on "Production Guide Application")

S.C. Governor's Office of Small and Minority Business Assistance (OSMBA) *Directory*

The *South Carolina Minority Business Directory* is a reference of certified minority firms as listed by the OSMBA. This listing includes pertinent business information such as company name, address, telephone, management contact, type of business, a certificate number, and a federal IS/SSN number. The companies are arranged by product and service categories. The directory also explains how to begin the certification process and includes other small/minority business assistance information.

Margaret Woodson
Director
SC Governor's Office of Small and Minority Business Assistance
1205 Pendleton St Ste 444
Edgar A Brown Building
Columbia SC 29201
Phone: (803) 734-0657
Fax: (803) 734-2498
E-mail: mwoodson@oepp.sc.gov
Web: www.govoepp.state.sc.us/osmba

S.C. Office of the Secretary of State

The Office of the Secretary of State is responsible for business filings including the registration of incorporated businesses, limited liability companies (LLCs), limited liability partnerships (LLPs), limited partnerships, nonprofit organizations, and professional associations.

Julia Reese
Director, Business Filings
SC Office of the Secretary of State
PO Box 11350
Columbia SC 29211
Phone: (803) 734-2158
Web: www.scsos.com

S.C. Workers' Compensation Commission

The S.C. Workers' Compensation Commission is dedicated to serving employers and workers in the most fair, responsive and timely manner possible. The ombudsman's office serves as a neutral and reliable source for employers, employees, attorneys, insurance carriers, medical providers, and others.

Jennifer Neese
Ombudsman
SC Workers' Compensation Commission
PO Box 1715
Columbia SC 29202-1715
Phone: (803) 737-5713
E-mail: ombudsman@wcc.sc.gov
Web: www.wcc.sc.gov

International Trade Resources



City of Columbia

The City of Columbia is a member of the South Carolina International Trade Coalition. The City's Economic Development Office provides assistance to Columbia-based companies with exporting.

Deidre Buice Crow
Deputy Director, International Trade Liaison
Office of Economic Development
City of Columbia
1201 Main St Ste 250
Columbia SC 29201
Phone: (803) 734-2704
Fax: (803) 734-2702
E-mail: dcrow@columbiasc.net
Web: www.columbiadevelopment.com

S.C. Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture is a member of the South Carolina International Trade Coalition. The department provides export assistance to all S.C. agriculture companies.

Aaron Wood
SC Department of Agriculture
Wade Hampton Building
Capital Complex
PO Box 11280
Columbia SC 29211
Phone: (803) 734-1767
Fax: (803) 734-9808
E-mail: awood@scda.sc.gov
Web: www.scda.state.sc.us/index.html

S.C. Department of Commerce, International Trade Program

The International Trade Program of the S.C. Department of Commerce is committed to helping the state's companies — no matter how large or small — export their goods and services. The primary role of the trade program is to identify prospective buyers, agents and distributors for S.C. companies. This is accomplished largely by coordinating a variety of overseas business missions and participation in international trade fairs at minimal cost that are geared to both the beginning exporter and established exporters wishing to explore new markets.

The program's team of global export market specialists provides hands-on assistance designed to guide companies from the beginning stages of market research to export sales leads. S.C.'s overseas offices in Tokyo, Munich and Shanghai expand the program's ability to help S.C. identify potential partners.

Additional information can be found on our Web site at www.sccommerce.com.

Clarke Thompson
Director, International Trade
SC Department of Commerce
1201 Main St Ste 1600
Columbia SC 29201
Phone: (803) 737-0438
Fax: (803) 806-3508
E-mail: cthompso@sccommerce.com

S.C. Export Consortium

The S.C. Export Consortium is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established to help existing businesses in South Carolina expand and develop through international trade — both import and export. The consortium does this through a public-private partnership with entities across the state, using graduate assistants at the University of South Carolina's Moore School of Business and Clemson University's College of Business to produce export-marketing reports for S.C. companies.

The S.C. Export Consortium provides training and research in market identification, technical support, logistics, cultural background, and points of contacts for small- to medium-sized companies that would not traditionally have the resources to expand through international trade.

The consortium works to help companies take advantage of the S.C. Department of Commerce's trade program, trade mission and trade show activities.

Fred Monk
President
SC Export Consortium
PO Box 12186
Columbia SC 29211
Phone: (803) 799-4601
E-mail: fmonk@scchamber.net

S.C. Forestry Commission

The S.C. Forestry Commission is a member of the South Carolina International Trade Coalition. The Commission assists wood-related S.C. companies with exporting.

Tim Adams
Resource Development Forester
SC Forestry Commission
PO Box 21707
Columbia, SC 29221-1707
Phone: (803) 896-8802
Fax: (803) 798-8097
E-mail: tadams@forestry.state.sc.us
Web: www.state.sc.us/forest

S.C. International Trade Coalition (SCITC)

SCITC is dedicated to promoting international trade for firms in S.C. The SCITC is comprised of the state's three U.S. Export Assistance Centers/U.S. Commercial Service, the S.C. Department of Commerce, the S.C. Export Consortium, the S.C. Department of Agriculture, the S.C. World Trade Center, the S.C. District Export Council, and the S.C. Forestry Commission.

Amy Thomson
Chairperson, SCITC
SC Department of Commerce
Office of Export Development and Foreign Relations
1201 Main St Ste 1600
Columbia SC 29201
Phone: (803) 737-0488
E-mail: athomson@sccommerce.com

S.C. World Trade Center

The World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) is a nonprofit, nonpolitical association dedicated to the establishment and effective operation of the World Trade Centers as instruments for trade expansion. Founded in 1970, WTCA now represents 306 members in 91 countries, all involved in the development or operation of World Trade Centers or in providing related services. These World Trade Centers service more than 750,000 international trading corporations. WTCA's founding principles are as applicable today as they were 30 years ago: to encourage the expansion of world trade; to promote international business relationships and understanding among nations; to foster increased participation in world trade by industrializing nations; to create and encourage mutual assistance and cooperation among members; and to promote and further the concept of the World Trade Center.

S.C. has had a World Trade Center office in Charleston since 1989. SCWTC is a nonprofit nongovernmental membership-based organization whose mission is to build S.C.'s trading community. SCWTC provides its members and nonmembers with an ideal setting in which to pursue and maintain top-level business contacts at both the national and international level.

There are plenty of excellent opportunities to meet interesting contacts at the SCWTC regular indoor and outdoor events and business luncheons. Export/import assistance and educational programs are available to help S.C. companies expand their markets.

Lisa Callihan
Managing Director
SC World Trade Center
1 Poston Rd Ste 103
Charleston SC 29407
Phone: (843) 852-9880 ext 25
Fax: (843) 852-9890
E-mail: lisac@scwtc.org

U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Commercial Service, U.S. Export Assistance Centers (USEAC)

With USEACs in Columbia, Charleston and Greenville, the U.S. Commercial Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce is a federal government agency dedicated to helping small- to medium-sized companies with their exporting strategies. Our experienced staff of International Trade Specialists located in Columbia, Charleston and Greenville is committed to helping your business export.

Trade experts assist U.S. firms in exporting their products or services by: providing comprehensive counseling and advice, through timely and accurate intelligence regarding foreign markets; identifying qualified international buyers and representatives; advocating on their behalf; and providing comprehensive solutions to whatever challenges they may encounter.

Columbia Office:

Ann Watts
Columbia USEAC Director
US Department of Commerce
1201 Main St Ste 1720
Columbia SC 29201
Phone: (803) 765-5345
Fax: (803) 253-3614
E-mail: Ann.Watts@mail.doc.gov
Web:
www.buyusa.gov/southcarolina/location.html

Jayne Woodward
Senior International Trade Specialist
Phone: (803) 253-3612
Fax: (803) 253-3614
E-mail: Jayne.Woodward@mail.doc.gov

Charleston Office:

Phil Minard
International Trade Specialist
US Department of Commerce
5300 International Blvd Ste 201-C
Charleston SC 29418
Phone: (843) 760-3794
Fax: (843) 760-3798
E-mail: Phil.Minard@mail.doc.gov

Greenville Office:

Denis Csizmadia
Greenville USEAC Director
US Department of Commerce
555 North Pleasantburg Dr
Park Central Office Park
Building 1 Ste 109
Greenville SC 29607
Phone: (864) 271-1976
Fax: (864) 271-4171
E-mail: denis.csizmadia@mail.doc.gov

Technology Resources, Incubators, and other Resource Centers

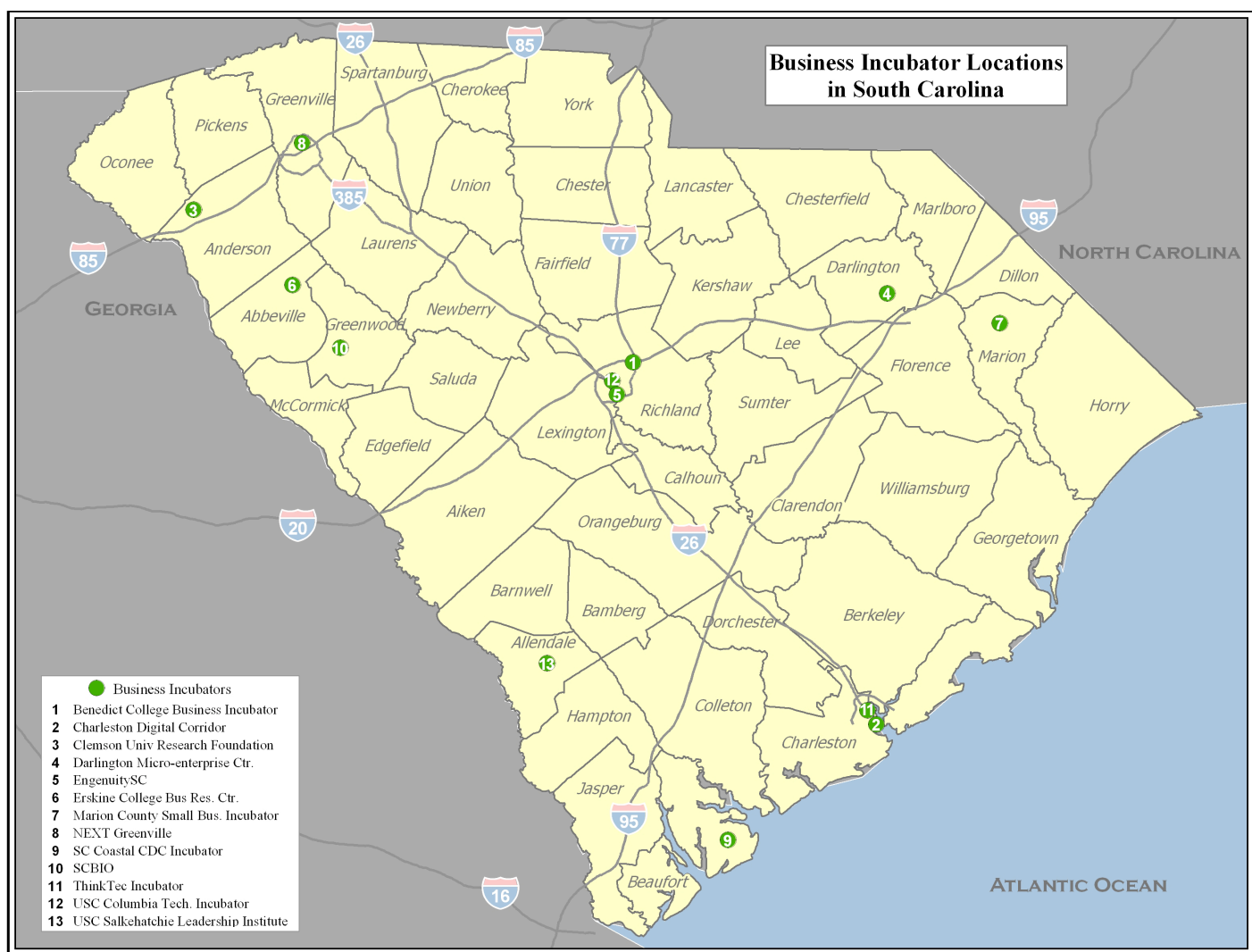


Benedict College Small Business Incubator

The Benedict College Small Business Incubator brings in startup businesses for two years as clients and tenants within the Business Development Center. The expectation is that the businesses selected to be participants in the incubation program are entrepreneurs interested in providing innovative new products, services or approaches to business within the African-American community.

David Palmer
Executive Director
Benedict College Small Business Incubator
2601 Read St
Columbia SC 29204
Phone: (803)-705-4781
E-mail: palmerd@benedict.edu

Business Incubator Locations in South Carolina



Charleston Digital Corridor

The Charleston Digital Corridor is a creative effort to attract, nurture and grow knowledge-based companies and industry professionals to the City of Charleston through a combination of city initiatives and business incentives, private business support and member-driven programs. With the goal of offering tangible resources to the business community, the Digital Corridor serves as a portal to government, infrastructure, real estate, education, venture capital, professional resources and a trained workforce. In partnership with regional economic development agencies, communication infrastructure providers, along with the academic and private sectors, the Digital Corridor's commitment is to facilitate an environment where technology companies thrive. The Charleston Digital Corridor consists of four geographic areas (districts), offering a diverse range of options to meet the unique size, personality, price and infrastructure requirements for all types of knowledge-based industries.

Ernest Andrade
Executive Director
Charleston Digital Corridor
392-A Meeting St
Charleston SC 29403
Phone: (843) 724-3773
E-mail: ernest@charlestdigitalcorridor.com
Web: www.charlestdigitalcorridor.com

Clemson University Research Foundation (CURF)

For more than 10 years CURF has supported business incubation at Clemson University through its center for applied technology. The first incubator in S.C. to offer wet-lab space, CURF has graduated ten high-tech companies, several of whom have located in the Upstate.

Dr. Joseph Kolis
Executive Director
Clemson Research Park
91 Technology Dr
Anderson SC 29625
Phone: (864) 656-4237
Fax: (864) 656-0574
E-mail: kjoseph@clemson.edu
Web: www.clemson.edu/curf

Darlington Micro-enterprise Center

The Darlington Micro-enterprise Incubator is the result of a partnership with the City of Darlington, the Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce and the South Carolina Women's Business Center. This partnership has fostered small business support through consultations, seminars and assessments. The Darlington Micro-enterprise Incubator effort is further stimulated by the receipt of an AEO Kellogg Foundation grant which is intended to be the catalyst for a micro-enterprise loan fund.

Nancy E. Matthews
Executive Director
Darlington Micro-enterprise Center
36 Public Sq
PO Box 274
Darlington SC 29540
Phone: (843) 393-2641
Fax: (843) 393-8059

EngenuitySC

EngenuitySC is an active public/private sector partnership focused on nurturing the growth of a knowledge-based economy in the Columbia, S.C. region. Comprised of business and industry leaders, along with representatives from local government and academia, EngenuitySC strives to create a fertile business climate that:

- Encourages entrepreneurship and the commercialization of ideas and technology;
- Harnesses the research breakthroughs of higher education institutions;
- Establishes public policy that is sensitive to the unique needs of knowledge-based companies;
- Promotes access to startup investment capital.

Neil McLean
Executive Director
EngenuitySC
PO Box 50768
Columbia SC 29250-0768
Phone: (803) 783-1507
E-mail: info@engenuity.com
Web: www.engenuitysc.com

Erskine College, Department of Business, Small Business Support Center (SBSC)

The Erskine College Department of Business SBSC is a resource for sharing ideas from which small businesses might benefit, but don't have the time to find themselves in the day-to-day challenges of running a business. SBSC can assist in cutting costs using technology, finding new markets, growing a customer base through better utilization of mailing lists or other best practices.

Anthony P. Santella
Assistant Professor of Business Administration
Erskine College
Two Washington St
PO Box 338
Due West SC 29639
Phone: (864) 379-8848
E-mail: santella@erskine.edu
Web: www.erskine.edu/SBSC

Marion County Small Business Incubator

The Marion County Small Business Incubator is a results-driven provider of educational services and business tools. It supports the startup, growth, stabilization and long-term success of business enterprises in Marion County and the surrounding areas.

Henry J. McWhite
Director
Marion County Small Business Incubator
1305 North Main St
Marion SC 29571
Phone: (843) 431-5009
Fax: (843) 423-8306
E-mail: hmcwhite@marionsc.org
Web: www.mcsbi.com

NEXT Greenville

NEXT is a resource collaborative that supports and attracts high-impact entrepreneurs and their ventures in the greater Greenville area and throughout the Upstate of S.C. through concierge service, infrastructure development, advocacy and marketing.

NEXT serves as the single point of contact for accessing the full portfolio of entrepreneurial support services in the Greenville area. The concierge service addresses the needs and issues that are critical to technology startups' success including, but not limited to:

- One-stop, direct connection to the region's wide variety of entrepreneur support organizations, programs and events;
- Relocation assistance including community tour and presentation, real estate support, regulatory/license assistance, introductions to peer entrepreneurs, etc.;
- Capital access;
- Targeted professional service providers;
- Regulatory/governmental guidance.

Brenda Laasko
NEXT Greenville
24 Cleveland St
Greenville SC 29601
Phone: (864) 239-3711
E-mail: blaakso@greenvillechamber.org
Web: www.nextgreenville.com

S.C. Coastal Community Development Corporation (SCCCDC)

The business incubator provides a flexible environment where new and existing businesses benefit from affordable office space, shared equipment and professional administrative services. The incubator and commercial kitchen stimulate small business growth and development in surrounding areas. SCCCDC assists in getting businesses started and keeping them going.

Elizabeth Santagati
Executive Director
SC Coastal Community Development Corporation
22 Old Polowana Rd Extension
Saint Helena Island SC 29920
Phone: (843) 838-3295

SC BIO

SC BIO is a public/private, not-for-profit organization composed of industry, university and private entities collaborating to develop new life-science companies in S.C. SC BIO is a catalyst that aids in commercialization supporting financial growth, process development and marketing for emerging life-science companies.

Karl B. Kelly
CEO
SC BIO
117 Gregor Mendel Cir
Greenwood SC 29646
Phone: (864) 953-3980
E-mail: kkelly@scbio.org
Web: www.scbio.org

SCLaunch!

SCLaunch! is a collaboration between the South Carolina Research Authority — a technology R&D program management company — and South Carolina's research universities — Clemson University, University of South Carolina and Medical University of South Carolina. Through the Resource Network, SCLaunch! teams with seasoned business professionals and organizations that are willing to provide advice, mentoring and services to SCLaunch! clients.

SCLaunch! accelerates entrepreneurial growth for advanced technology startups by delivering key tools for success: seed-funding up to \$200,000 in loans or investments; ongoing mentoring and business counseling; and access to Resource Network Services. Our mission is to help generate knowledge-based jobs, enhance the state's quality of life and provide opportunity for all South Carolinians in the new economy.

Russell Cook
Program Director
SCLaunch!
1330 Lady St Ste 505
Columbia SC 29211
Phone: (803) 622-4382
E-mail: russell.cook@scra.org
Web: www.sclaunch.org

ThinkTEC Incubator

ThinkTEC has an incubator suite at the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce to provide office space for up to four knowledge-based startup companies for one to six months. For \$1 per day, services include: receptionist; office space; meeting space; wi-fi connectivity; access to office equipment; signage; access to the Business Information Center; and consultation with SCORE staff.

Pennie Bingham
Innovation Vice President
ThinkTEC
2750 Speissegger Dr
North Charleston SC 29445
Phone: (843) 805-3073
Fax: (843) 723-4853
E-mail: PBingham@charlestonchamber.org
Web: www.thinktec.org

University of South Carolina (USC) Columbia Technology Incubator

The USC Columbia Technology Incubator is currently home to both regular and student companies. Since its inception in November 1998, it has provided opportunities for USC faculty, staff and students to commercialize their ideas, produced successful, financially viable and freestanding businesses, and created hundreds of additional jobs in the community. Resource specialties are office space, labs, service provider networks and software networking.

Joel C. Stevenson Jr.
Director
USC Columbia Technology Incubator
1225 Laurel St
Columbia SC 29201
Phone: (803) 545-4379
Fax: (803) 545-4881
E-mail: jstevenson@sc.edu
Web: www.incubator.research.sc.edu

University of South Carolina Salkehatchie Leadership Institute (USCSLI)

USCSLI serves Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, and Hampton counties. Our goal is to foster economic development by focusing on small business through business training, workshops and one-on-one consulting. The center provides small business training and technical assistance to current and prospective business owners. More than 100 individuals have been through USCSLI's 10-week Small Business Startup Training, and we have consulted with dozens of individuals about their business opportunities/issues and assisted with a number of business startup and expansion plans for the purpose of securing financing and offering operating direction to those businesses.

Pat Ciez
Director
USC Salkehatchie Leadership Institute
Center for Business Development
PO Box 617
Allendale SC 29810
Phone: (803) 584-3446 ext. 154
E-mail: CIEZ@gwm.sc.edu
Web: http://uscsalkehatchie.sc.edu/NEW_Leadership.htm

Local Resources



Chambers of Commerce

Chambers of Commerce serve business communities in a variety of ways. Chambers promote the economic growth of the communities they serve. The services and publications of South Carolina's Chambers of Commerce vary greatly according to availability of resources. General economic and geographic data about a given area can usually be obtained from a local chamber.

Greater Abbeville Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Cheri Standridge
Executive Director
107 Court Sq
Abbeville SC 29620-2418
Phone: (864) 366-4600
Fax: (864) 366-4068
E-mail: avchamber@wctel.net
Web: www.abbevillescchamber.com/

Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce

Mr. David Jameson
President
PO Box 892
Aiken SC 29802-0892
Phone: (803) 641-1111
Fax: (803) 641-4174
E-mail: djameson@aikenchamber.net
Web: www.aikenchamber.net/

Allendale County Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Dan Johnson
President
PO Box 517
Allendale SC 29810-0517
Phone: (803) 584-0082
E-mail: wayside33A@aol.com
Web: www.allendalecountychamber.org/

Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Lee R. Luff, CCE, CAE
President
907 North Main St Ste 200
Anderson SC 29621-5512
Phone: (864) 226-3454
Fax: (864) 226-3300
E-mail: lluff@andersonscchamber.com
Web: www.andersonscchamber.com/

Bamberg County Chamber

Ms. Lisa B. Stokes
604 Airport Rd
Bamberg SC 29003
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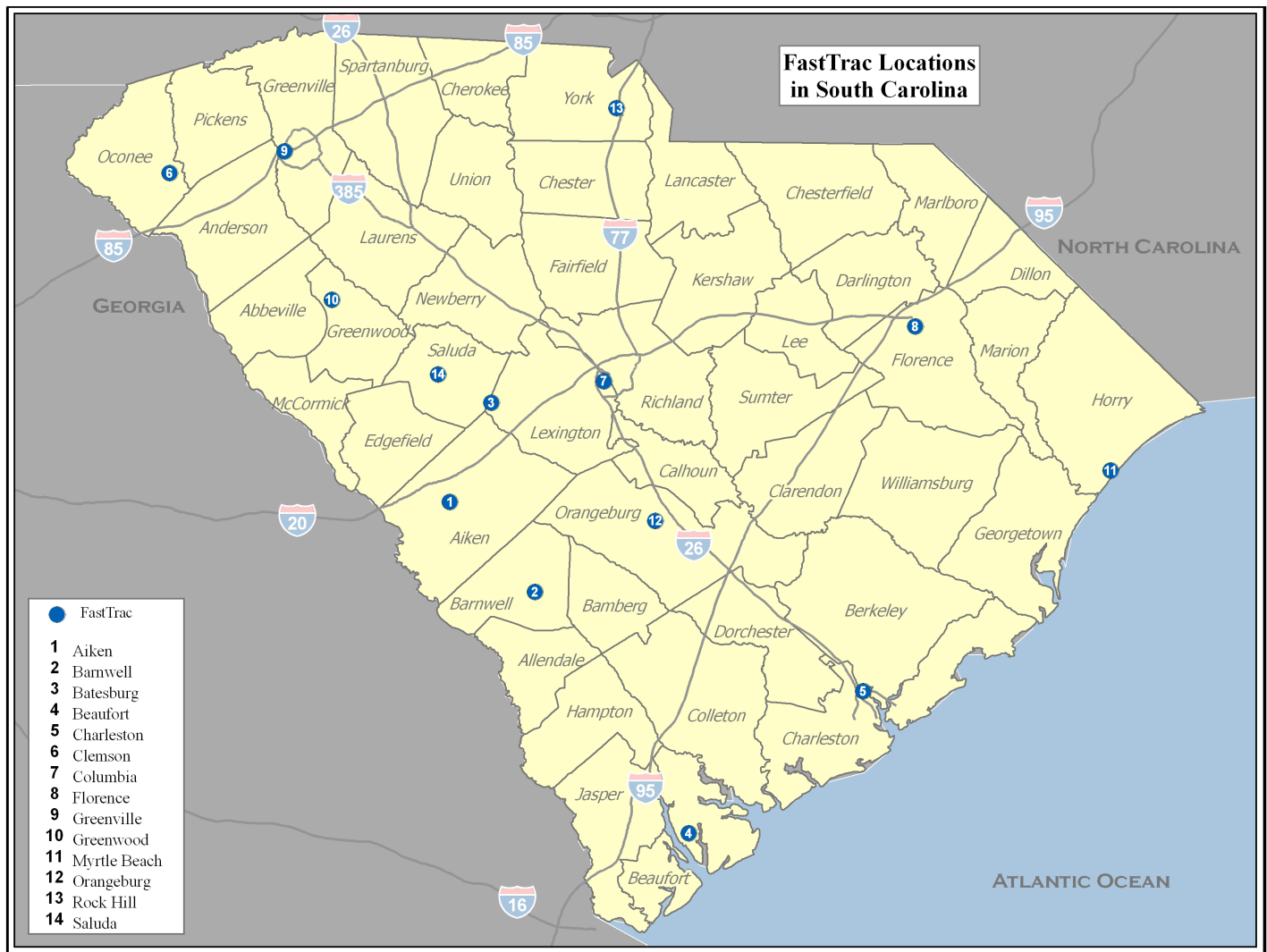
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Jim Friar
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PO Box 340
Summerville SC 29484
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Edgefield

Aiken-Edgefield Economic Development Partnership
Robert Long
PO Box 1708
Aiken SC 29802
Phone: (803) 641-3300
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Fairfield

Fairfield County Economic Development
Department
Tiffany Harrison
Economic Development Director
PO Drawer 60
Winnsboro SC 29180
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Florence

Florence County Economic Development Partnership
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Greenville

Greenville Area Development Corporation
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Greenwood

Partnership for a Greater Greenwood County &
Economic Alliance
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Greer

Greer Development Corporation
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Hampton County Economic Development
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Hardeeville

Hardeeville Planning and Economic Development
Ted Felder
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205 East Main St
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Jasper County
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Pickens-Economic Development Alliance
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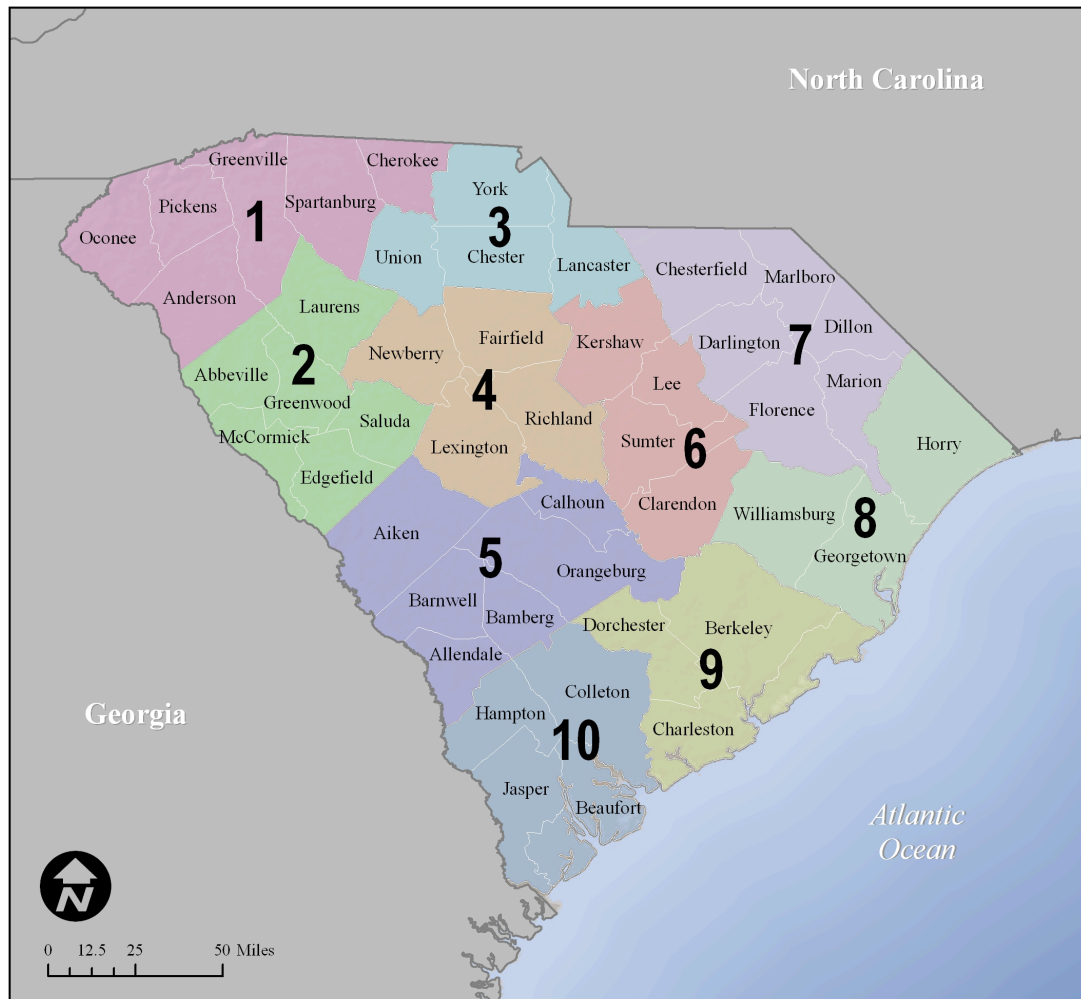
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Union County Development Board
Stanley Vanderford
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207 South Herndon St
Union SC 29379
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E-mail: stanley@unionsc.com

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 F. Hilton McGill Jr.
 Executive Director
 PO Box 1132
 Kingstree SC 29556
 Phone: (843) 382-9393
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 E-mail: hmcgill@ftc-i.net

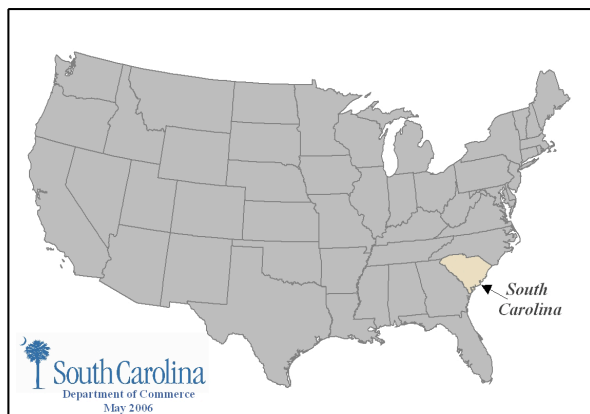
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 York County Economic Development Board
 J. Mark Farris
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 1830 Second Baxter Crossing
 Fort Mill SC 29708
 Phone: (803) 802-4300
 Fax: (803) 802-4299
 E-mail: mark.farris@yorkcountygov.com

S.C. Councils of Government (COGs)



Councils of Government

- 1 - Appalachian
- 2 - Upper Savannah
- 3 - Catawba
- 4 - Central Midlands
- 5 - Lower Savannah
- 6 - Santee-Lynches
- 7 - Pee Dee
- 8 - Waccamaw
- 9 - Berkeley/Charleston/Dorchester
- 10 - Lowcountry



There are ten COGs in South Carolina, each representing a multi-county planning district. Each of the state's 46 counties falls within a COG region. COGs perform a host of services that positively affect the quality of life and economic development. COG programs and activities include: local and regional planning; community development; workforce development; economic development; and business loans.

Anderson, Oconee, Greenville, Spartanburg, Pickens, Cherokee

Appalachian Council of Governments

Steve Pelissier

Executive Director

PO Drawer 6668

Greenville SC 29606

Phone: (864) 242-9733

Fax: (864) 242-6957

E-mail: pelissier@scacog.org

Web: www.scacog.org

Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester

Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments

Ron Mitchum

Executive Director

1362 McMillan Ave Ste 100

North Charleston SC 29405

Phone: (843) 529-0400

Fax: (843) 529-0305

Web: www.bcdco.com

York, Union, Chester, Lancaster

Catawba Regional Council of Governments

Harold S. Shapiro

Executive Director

PO Box 450

Rock Hill SC 29731

Phone: (803) 327-9041

Fax: (803) 327-1912

E-mail: hshapiro@catawbacog.org

Web: www.catawbacog.org

Lexington, Richland, Newberry, Fairfield

Central Midlands Council of Governments

Norman Whitaker

Executive Director

236 Stoneridge Dr

Columbia SC 29210

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Fax: (803) 376-5394

E-mail: nwhitaker@centralmidlands.org

Web: www.centralmidlands.org

Colleton, Hampton, Jasper, Beaufort

Low Country Council of Governments

Chris Bickley

Executive Director

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Yemassee SC 29945

Phone: (843) 726-5536

Aiken, Barnwell, Allendale, Bamberg, Orangeburg, Calhoun

Lower Savannah Council of Governments

Wayne Rogers

Executive Director

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Aiken SC 29802

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Fax: (803) 649-2248

E-mail: wrogers@lscog.org

Web: www.lscog.org

Chesterfield, Marlboro, Dillon, Florence, Marion, Darlington

Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments

Johnny Brown

Executive Director

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Florence SC 29502

Phone: (843) 669-3138

Fax: (843) 669-4392

E-mail: info@peedeecog.org

Web: www.peedeecog.org/

Sumter, Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee

Santee-Lynches Council of Governments

James T. Darby Jr.

Executive Director

PO Box 1837

Sumter SC 29150

Phone: (803) 775-7381

Fax: (803) 773-9903

E-mail: sloffice@slcog.org

Web: www.slcog.state.sc.us

Abbeville, Laurens, Greenwood, McCormick, Saluda,
Edgefield

Upper Savannah Council of Governments

Patricia Hartung

Executive Director

PO Box 1366

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Phone: (864) 941-8050

(800) 922-7729

Fax: (864) 941-8090

E-mail: pchartung@uppersavannah.com

Web: www.uppersavannah.com

Williamsburg, Horry, Georgetown

Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments

David M. Essex

Executive Director

1230 Highmarket St

Georgetown SC 29440

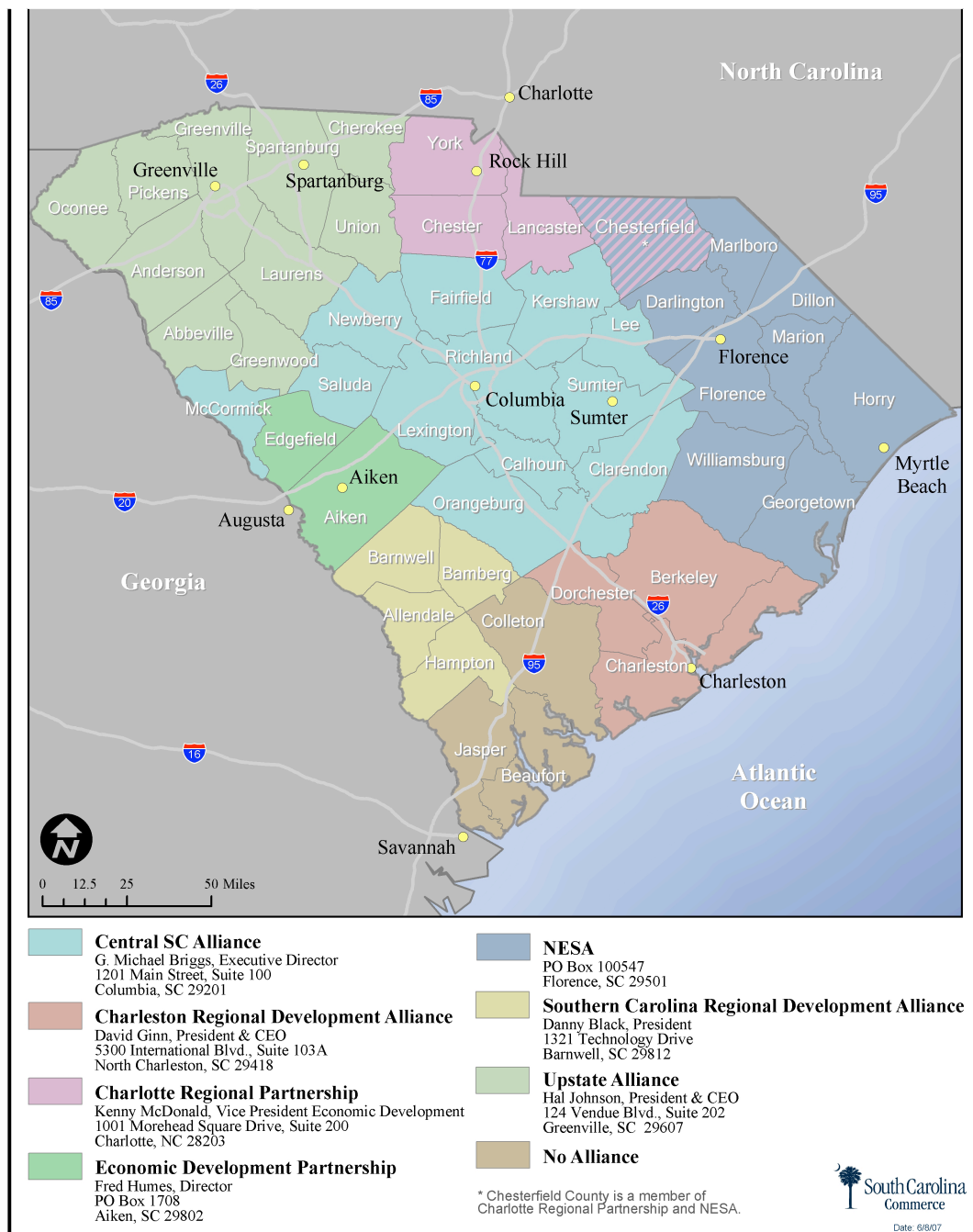
Phone: (843) 546-8502

Fax: (843) 527-2302

E-mail: dessex@wrcog.org

Web: www.wrcog.org

S.C. County Regional Alliances



There are several Economic Development Alliances within S.C. These Alliances service a particular region of the state combining resources to ensure growth. All are willing to assist companies relocating to or expanding in S.C.

Aiken & Edgefield

Aiken Edgefield Economic Development Partnership
Mr. Fred E. Humes
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Aiken SC 29801
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Fax: (803) 641-3369
E-mail: fhumes@edpsc.org
Web: www.edpsc.org

*Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion, Marlboro,
Chesterfield & Williamsburg*

Eastern South Carolina Alliance
Ms. Linda Boone-Smith
Director of Marketing
PO Box 1568
Florence SC 29503
Phone: (843) 679-0628
Fax: (843) 679-0668
E-mail: linda.boone@easternsc.com

*Newberry, Lexington, Kershaw, Fairfield, Calhoun,
Richland, Orangeburg, Lee & Sumter*

Central South Carolina Alliance
Mr. G. Michael Briggs
Executive Director
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Columbia SC 29201
Phone: (803) 733-1131
(866) 278-9098
Fax: (803) 733-1125
E-mail: mbriggs@centralsc.org
Web: www.centralsc.org

*Horry, Marion, Williamsburg, Dillon Marlboro,
Georgetown, Florence, Darlington, Clarendon &
Chesterfield*

The North Eastern Strategic Alliance
Mr. Jeff McKay
Executive Director
PO Box 100547
Florence SC 29501
Phone: (843) 661-4669
Fax: (843) 661-1207
E-mail: jmckay@scbusinesscorner.com

Charleston, Dorchester & Berkeley

Charleston Regional Development Alliance
Mr. David T. Ginn
Director, Economic Development
5300 International Blvd Ste 103A
North Charleston SC 29418
Phone: (843) 760-4534
Fax: (843) 760-4535
E-mail: dginn@crda.org
Web: www.charleston-for-business.com

Allendale, Bamberg, Hampton & Barnwell

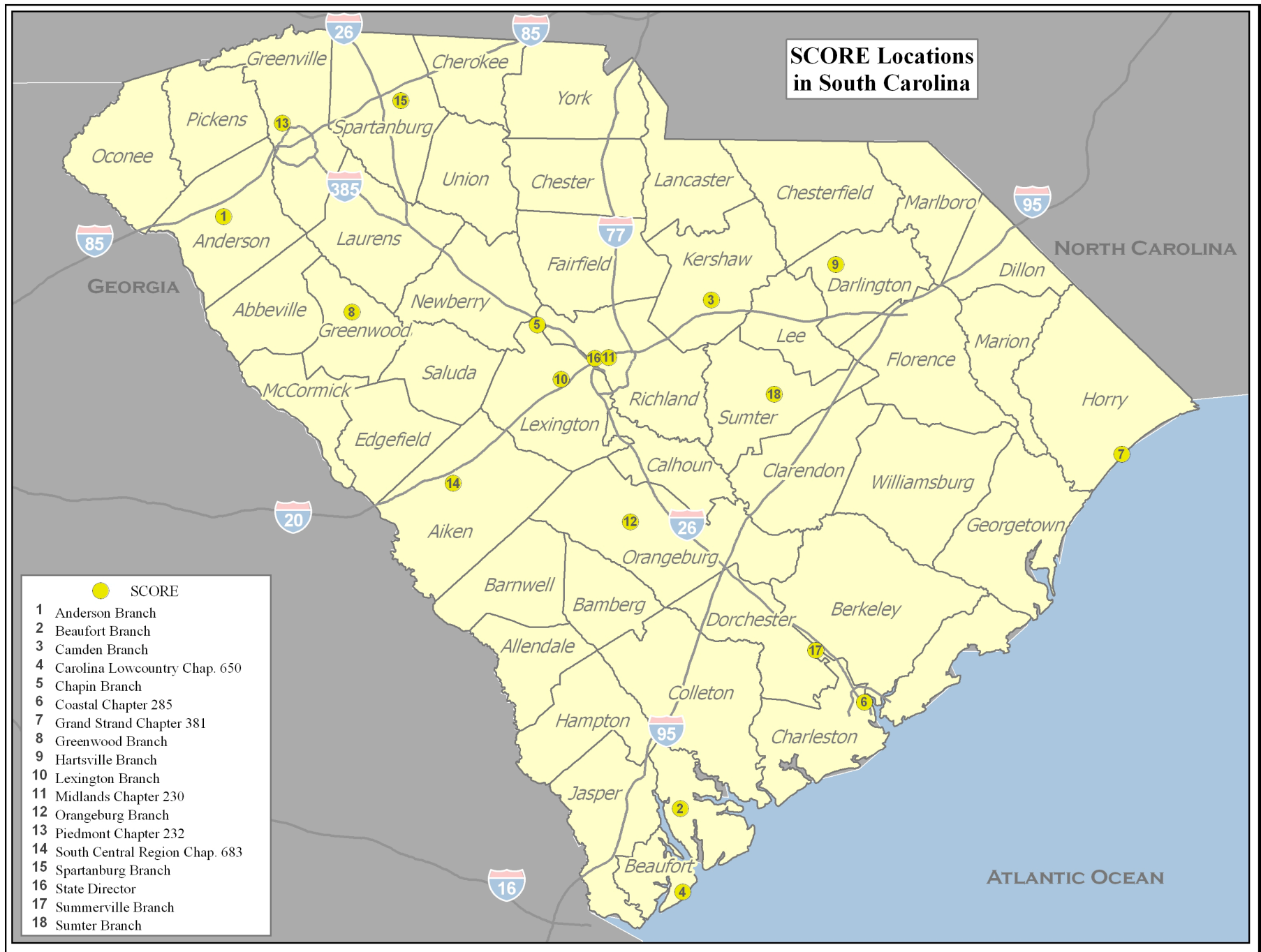
Southern Carolina Alliance
Mr. Danny R. Black
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Phone: (803) 541-0023
Fax: (803) 541-3322
E-mail: dblack@southerncarolina.org
Web: www.southerncarolina.org

Chester, Chesterfield, Lancaster, York

Charlotte Regional Partnership
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(803) 554-4373
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Web: www.charlotteusa.com

*Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville,
Greenwood, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg
& Union*

Upstate Alliance
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Web: www.upstatealliance.com



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Anderson Branch

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Web: www.piedmontscore.org

Beaufort Branch

Island Community Bank
2348 Boundary St
Beaufort SC 29902
Phone: (843) 470-0800
E-mail: score@hiltonheadisland.org
Web: www.scorebeaufort.com

Camden Branch

1835 Assembly St Ste 1425
Columbia SC 29201
Phone: (803) 765-5131
E-mail: info@scoremidlands.org
Web: www.scoremidlands.org

Carolina Lowcountry Chapter 650

Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce
1 Chamber of Commerce Dr
Hilton Head Island SC 29926
Phone: (843) 785-7107
Fax: (843) 785-7110
E-mail: score@hiltonheadisland.org
Web: www.scorehiltonhead.com

Chapin Branch

Chapin Chamber of Commerce
302 Columbia Ave
Chapin SC 29036
Phone: (803) 345-1100
E-mail: info@scoremidlands.org
Web: www.scoremidlands.org

Coastal Chapter 285

Charleston Metro Chamber
2750 Speissegger Dr Ste 100
North Charleston SC 29405
Phone: (843) 727-4778
Fax: (843) 805-3112
E-mail: info@score285.org
Web: www.score285.org

Grand Strand Chapter 381

605 10th Ave N
Myrtle Beach SC 29577
Phone: (843) 918-1079
Fax: (843) 918-1080
E-mail: info@mbscore.org
Web: www.mbscore.org

Greenwood Branch

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Hartsville SC 29550
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Web: www.scoremidlands.org

Lexington Branch

Lexington Chamber of Commerce
321 South Lake Dr
Lexington SC 29072
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Web: www.scoremidlands.org

Midlands Chapter 230

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Columbia SC 29201
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Piedmont Chapter 232

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Greenville SC 29601
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Web: www.piedmontscore.org

South Central Region Chapter 683

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Fax: (803) 641-4174
E-mail: scrscore@aikenchamber.net
Web:
www.aikenchamber.net/business_district/score.shtml

Spartanburg Branch

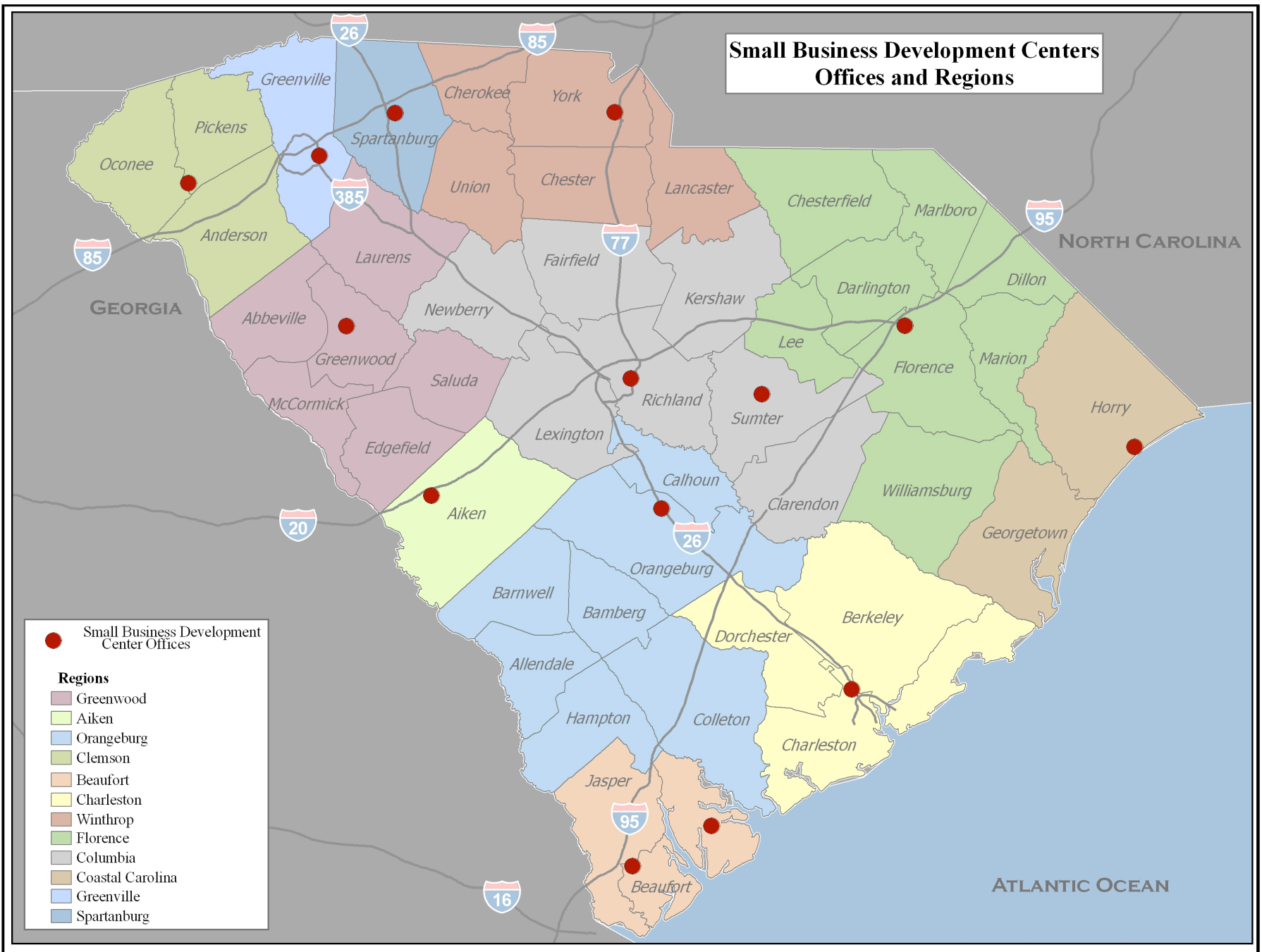
Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce
105 North Pine St
Spartanburg SC 29302
Phone: (864) 594-5000
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Summerville Branch

Summerville Chamber of Commerce
402 North Main St
Summerville SC 29483
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Web: www.score285.org

Sumter Branch

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Sumter SC 29150
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Horry & Georgetown Counties
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McCormick & Saluda Counties*
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Interim Regional Director
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SCSU School of Business
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Spartanburg Human Resource Center
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Winthrop University
*Cherokee, Chester, Lancaster, Union & York
Counties*
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E-mail: HockettD@mail.winthrop.edu

Internet Resources



BizHub.org

BizHub's mission is to help small businesses in Chester, Chesterfield, Lancaster and York counties grow and be more successful by providing easy access to a network of needed services.

The BizHub Network works with Resource Partners to:

- Promote community awareness of small business assistance resources through an integrated systematic network linking users to available public and nonprofit resources;
- Promote opportunities to co-locate service providers serving the entrepreneurial community;
- Increase efficiency of public and nonprofit service providers through coordinated marketing of programs, events and seminars across the network;
- Link workforce development training and small business ownership.

Web: www.bizhub.org

Entreworld

This Web site is the Kauffman Foundation's online resource guide for entrepreneurs. Contains information on starting and growing businesses. Site connects entrepreneurs with business experts.

Web: www.eventuring.org

Federal Procurement Data Center

This Web site contains vast amounts of information pertaining to the Federal Procurement Process. Registration is required and some reports must be purchased.

Web: www.fpds.gov

Internal Revenue Service Information for Business

This is the online tax resource center of the IRS, which provides information on many tax questions. Links are available to answer questions for businesses of all sizes.

Web: www.irs.gov/businesses/index.html

S.C. Business One Stop (SCBOS)

Within one electronic location, SCBOS guides potential new business owners through the process of starting a business in South Carolina, while making it easier for existing business owners when filing and paying for business licenses.

SCBOS is the free online resource for new businesses and existing business to register with the state of S.C., obtain licenses, permits and registrations, as well as file and pay taxes and fees. With a few clicks, users can

register or reserve a business from the Secretary of State, receive their sales tax license and obtain other state registrations, such as:

- Register for Withholding for Unemployment Tax;
- Register with Department of Consumer Affairs for Consumer Credit Sales — Maximum Rate;
- Certain permits for SC DHEC.

SCBOS Helpline: (803) 898-5690

Web: www.scbos.com

S.C. Chamber of Commerce, SCMinorityBusiness.net

Sponsored by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, this site allows minority and women business owners to register for contracts with South Carolina companies. The site also contains useful links to information on minority- and women-owned business status.

Web: www.scmminoritybusiness.net

S.C. Department of Commerce

The S.C. Department of Commerce has established a central location for all of your small business questions. Commerce is eager to help with your small business needs. Commerce is allied with resources throughout the state that will be able to assist you with most of your business needs.

Brad Neese

Small Business Manager

1201 Main St Ste 1600

Columbia SC 29201

Phone: (803) 737-2329

Fax: (803) 806-3426

E-mail: bneese@sccommerce.com

Web: www.sccommerce.com/smallbusiness.html

S.C. Small Business Administration (SBA) Office

This site is the home page for SBA's S.C. office. It provides an online calendar of training events as well as a startup kit for new businesses and information on SBA finance programs.

Web: www.sba.gov/sc/

S.C. Statewide Minority Business Enterprise Center (MBEC)

This site is the home page of the Minority Business Enterprise Center and contains useful information for minority business owners. Financial information may be found in the Lending Library section. A calendar of seminars offered by the center is also available.

Web: www.scmbdc.com

SCLaunch!

SCLaunch! is a collaboration between SCRA — a technology R&D program management company — and South Carolina's research universities — Clemson University, University of South Carolina and Medical University of South Carolina. Through the Resource Network, SCLaunch! teams with seasoned business professionals and organizations that are willing to provide advice, mentoring and services to SCLaunch! clients.

SCLaunch! accelerates entrepreneurial growth for advanced technology startups by delivering key tools for success: seed-funding of up to \$200,000 in loans or investments, ongoing mentoring and business counseling, and access to Resource Network Services. Our mission is to help generate knowledge-based jobs, enhance the state's quality of life and provide opportunity for all South Carolinians in the new economy.

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Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) Online Learning Center

The SCORE Online Learning Center provides information on many business topics. Specific information is available for women and minority business owners and entrepreneurs. Also, 60-second guides are available for quick tips on making your business successful.

Web: www.score.org/learning_center.html

Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), Bizexperts.org

Sponsored by SBDC, this site provides answers to many general business questions. Discussion boards allow business owners the opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss issues.

Web: www.smallbiztrends.com

State of S.C. Procurement Information Center

This Web site is a one-stop source for information pertaining to doing business with S.C. state government. Information on current available bids and contracts, as well as online registration can be found on this site.

Web: www.procurement.sc.gov

U.S. Central Contractor Registration (CCR)

CCR is the primary vendor database for the U.S. Federal Government. CCR collects, validates, stores and disseminates data in support of agency acquisition missions. Both current and potential government vendors are required to register in CCR in order to do be awarded contracts by the government. Vendors are required to complete a one-time registration to provide basic information relevant to procurement and financial transactions. Vendors must update or renew their registration annually to maintain an active status.

Web: www.ccr.gov

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

The Patent and Trademark Office maintains an extensive site that includes a database that enables online patent and trademark searches and filings. You may also find resources that help in the startup and growth of a business.

Web: www.uspto.gov



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